



75TH RANGER REGIMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

SPC. CHRISTOPHER GATHERCOLE

Killed in action on May 26, 2008

Operation Enduring Freedom

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment... - FIRST STANZA OF THE RANGER CREED

Spc. Christopher Gathercole, age 21, was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Wash. He was born on Oct. 16, 1986.

He was killed on May 26, 2008, near Ghazni, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations.

After graduating from Rincon High School in Carpinteria, Calif., Gathercole enlisted in the Army from his hometown of Santa Rosa, Calif., in October 2005 and completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there, he was assigned to the Ranger Indoctrination Program also at Fort Benning.



He graduated from the Ranger Indoctrination Program in May 2006 and was then assigned to 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment in June 2006. He was a lightweight machine (MK46) gunner.

Gathercole's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Gathercole is survived by his brother Edward F. Gathercole, sister Jennifer Daly and father Edward R. Gathercole both of Santa Rosa and his mother Catherine Ferrell of Fairfield, Calif.

As a Ranger, Gathercole distinguished himself as a member of the Army's premier light-infantry unit, traveled to all corners of the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and fought valiantly to "*uphold the prestige, honor, and high 'esprit de corps'*" of the Ranger Regiment.

Family requests donations be made to:
2nd Ranger Association Foundation
Mark Wilkins, Treasurer
c/o Merrill Lynch
1630 S. Lyndbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63131
www.assistrangers.com

Second charity is
CASA of Sonoma County
Sonomacasa.org

- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -